

August 29, 2001

Ms. Cathy Caggiano
Manager, Stamp Services
ATTN: Semipostal Stamp Program
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 5670
Washington, DC 20260-2435

Dear Ms.Caggiano:

As members of the Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, we write to pledge our strong support for Katherine D. Siggin's petition to designate an Alzheimer's Disease semipostal stamp.

Katherine Siggin's story of caring for her late husband day-in and day-out for over thirteen years is not unlike that of the millions of Americans who are caring for a family member stricken by Alzheimer's. Four million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's Disease today, and as the Baby Boomers come of age, this number is expected to explode to 14 million. Currently, one in ten Americans over the age of 65 and half of those over the age of 85 will succumb to Alzheimer's.

The mission of the Alzheimer's Task Force is to increase awareness of Alzheimer's, to support legislation designed to help alleviate the burden of those affected by Alzheimer's, and finally to increase federal funding for research to foster new treatments and a cure. To that end, the Alzheimer's Task Force along with the Alzheimer's Association has set a goal of increasing federal Alzheimer's research money at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to \$1 Billion by 2003. Our nation cannot afford to ignore what is quickly becoming the epidemic of the 21st Century -- increasing funding for research is crucial and an Alzheimer's semipostal stamp is a critical step in that direction.

As you know, in 1998 the Semipostal Authorization Act authorized the Breast Cancer Research Stamp which was issued as the first semipostal stamp. Through the voluntarily purchase of these stamps, 4 cents per stamp is set aside for federally funded research. To date the Breast Cancer Research Stamp has raised over \$21 million. The Act also authorized 2 additional research specific semi-postal stamps to be issued by the Postal Service upon recommendation by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) over the next decade. By designating an Alzheimer's semipostal stamp, Americans would be given the opportunity to participate directly in the battle against Alzheimer's through increased funding for Alzheimer's research.

Ms. Cathy Caggiano
Manager, Stamp Services
Page 2

We respectfully urge the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to strongly recommend to the U.S. Postal Service to issue the next semipostal stamp for Alzheimer's Disease research. We can't stand by and let millions of Americans fall victim to the devastation of Alzheimer's. We must do all we can today to allow Alzheimer's research to flourish so that a cure is discovered. Issuing an Alzheimer's semipostal stamp will help bring us closer to a cure and closer to a day when children will have to look to their history books to learn about Alzheimer's.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
Co-chair
Alzheimer's Task Force

Christopher H. Smith
Co-chair
Alzheimer's Task Force

Aclee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Johnny Isakson
Member of Congress

Constance A. Morella
Member of Congress

Randy J. Forbes
Member of Congress

James H. Maloney
Member of Congress

Albert Russell Wynn
Member of Congress

Ms. Cathy Caggiano
Manager, Stamp Services
Page 3

Jim Gibbons
Member of Congress

Peter T. King
Member of Congress

Peter Sessions
Member of Congress

Robert Menendez
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress

Thomas G. Tancredo
Member of Congress

Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress